

**From:** David Gould  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/16/01 10:39pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Anti-trust trial

I think it sums it up to witness that Gates himself is "happy" with the settlement. Who in their right mind, when found guilty of such a severe crime as anti-trust law violations, should be "happy" with the punishment they receive? This is an obvious sign that the settlement was far too lenient on Microsoft.

As a software engineer who is very aware of the enormous market power behind Microsoft, I sit here simply appalled at the weakness and lack of backbone in our government's justice department. Corporate entities seek out business models that are ambiguously or even very clearly illegal or un-constitutional in foundation, then they expect the government to protect their flawed business models just because they "help support the US economy" by providing jobs and goods to our citizens. And what does our government do? It steps right in line and defends outrageous legislation like the DCMA and this bogus resolution to the antitrust trial.

Here I think it is very clear, the new administration came in, ignored the history of the case, ignored the experts who basically unanimously suggested not just breaking MS up into two or three companys, but several companies, as well as other severe restrictions on their business practices... and got right in line behind "the big american corporation, savior of our economy". Who cares if our constitution and laws are flushed down the toilet, as long as we keep unemployment low right?

And even as you negotiated with microsoft, they made a fool of the justice department by continuing to flaunt their monopolistic practices, launching the most asbsurdly anti-trust violating piece of software yet, Microsoft XP, and continuing to bully the entire vertical market of PC manufacturing into locking out their competitors' products.

History has proven that it is better to take the medicine now then wait till later, especially in the case of monopolistic practices. Unfortunately it appears the justice department doesn't even have the technological understanding to realize that microsoft is hurting and stifling innovation and technological progress in our country by preventing nearly any other US company from having a chance to launch competing products because of the enormous barriers to entry they can impose through leveraging their monopoly of the PC operating system market. And this damage far outweighs any short term benefit to our economy. Eventually this will lead to the US being surpassed technologically by companies from other coutries like Germany, Britain, or Isreal.

But I realize this letter is a complete waste of time. After all, it's clear you are on their side. Thanks for nothing DOJ.

-Dave Gould